



## COIN RARITIES ONLINE

*Museum Quality Coinage*

January 17, 2007

Mr. Eric P. Newman  
6450 Cecil Ave  
St. Louis MO 63105

**Subject: Purported Contemporary Counterfeit Small Planchet Pine Tree Shilling**

Dear Eric:

*The information you requested for the holed Pine Tree Shilling is as follows:*

The specimen was acquired from the collection of the late Everest Allen of Peru, NY. The collection had been in storage since Mr. Allen's passing in 1991.

The collection was offered for sale at auction by Thomas Hirschak Company, Morrisville, VT. on October 11, 2007. This specimen was illustrated and offered in lot #1 of the sale. It was catalogued as a holed unattributed Pine Tree Shilling in the sale.

It was purchased by Dave Wnuck for Coin Rarities Online for \$1,045. Currently the coin is in a syndicate and owned by Dave Wnuck, John Agre, Robert Martin and Dr. Michael Spencer.

Other coins in Mr. Allen's estate sale included some state coppers, Fugios, 200+ large cents, half cents, Indian head cents, civil war tokens, commemorative half dollars, Morgan, Peace and Trade dollars, 65 gold pieces (California to double eagles), Canadian, foreign gold and silver and US currency (National bank notes, Confederate, Obsoletes, Fractional etc).

994 No. Colony Road #356  
Wallingford, Connecticut 06492

Tel: (617) 775-5562 / Email: [john@coinraritiesonline.com](mailto:john@coinraritiesonline.com)

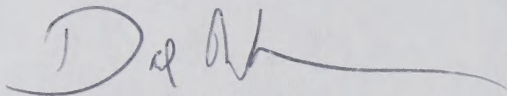
The Pine Tree shilling was shown to Anthony Terranova, John Kraljevich and Geoffrey Stevens at the most recent C4 convention in Boston. The collective opinion by all was the Pine Tree shilling is probably a contemporary piece of the period. It weighs about 45 grains, which is light even if one accounts for the possible loss of metal from the hole.

I have enclosed the coin, the "original" 2x2 holder that it was purchased in at the auction, the auction tag, a printout of the info about the auction [taken from the auctioneer's website. The web address of the auctioneer is --

<http://www.thcauction.com/index.htm>

Let me know if I can be of further assistance to you. Thank you for your kind assistance in helping us solve this numismatic riddle.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Dave Wnuck', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dave Wnuck  
Coin Rarities Online

Last updated on: 10/09/2007 10:42:08

**TWO DAY COIN AUCTION  
LARGE ESTATE COLLECTION - SCALED AT OVER 450 POUNDS**



**THURSDAY OCTOBER 11 & FRIDAY OCTOBER 12 @ 10AM  
131 Dorset Lane, Williston, VT**

**Preview Wednesday, October 10 from 11AM - 4PM**

**NEW Catalog** (Both Days, slightly modified from catalogs available below)

**October 11: Catalog & Photos: Lots 1-301 • Lots 337-472 • Lots 476-518 • Lots 519-533**

**October 12: Catalog & Photos: Lots 1000-1049 • Lots 1061-1143 • Lots 1044-1413 • Lots 1414-1583 • Currency (Selected Lots 1194-1614)**

**Catalog Cover**

**Absentee Bids Accepted!**  
**Download an Absentee Bid Form here**

**Hotels near the Coin Auction Site:**  
**Make your reservation today as rooms go very quickly this time of year!**

The link above will take you to a Google map with information & links to hotels near the Thomas Hirschak Auction Facility in Williston, VT.

We have been retained to sell the collection of the late Everest Allen of Peru, NY. This fresh to the market collection has been in storage since Mr. Allen's passing in 1991. Many examples that will achieve high grades. Early highlights:

- (65) US Gold from California to Double Eagles, including (6) Three Dollar pcs.
- Large silver dating to late 1790s.
- Ten Trade Dollars.
- 100s of Morgans & Peace Dollars.
- Three legged Buffalos.
- Beautiful half cents and Indian Heads.
- Fugios.
- Colonial Coppers.
- 200+ Large Cents.
- Commemorative Silver Half Dollars.
- Civil War Tokens.
- Large lot of Canadian.
- Foreign gold and silver.
- Good US currency, including: First Charter \$5 National Bank Notes, 1896 \$1 Silver Cert. (History instructing youth), Confederate, Obsoletes, Fractional, etc.







[Back](#)

**Thomas Hirschak Company**

1878 Cadys Falls Road Morrisville, VT 05661 (802) 888-4662

PHONE 800-634-7653 • FAX (802) 888-2211

E-mail: [info@thcauction.com](mailto:info@thcauction.com)

Williston Facility: PHONE (802) 878-9200 • FAX (802) 878-0222



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## Two Day Coin Auction - October 11 & 12, 2007



Lot 1 Obverse



Lot 1 Reverse



Lot 3 Obverse



Lot 3 Reverse



Lot 4 Obverse



Lot 4 Reverse



Lot 6 Obverse



Lot 6 Reverse



Lot 7 Obverse



Lot 7 Reverse



Lot 8 Obverse



Lot 8 Reverse



Lot 10 Obverse



Lot 10 Reverse



Lot 11 Obverse



Lot 11 Reverse



Lot 14 Obverse



Lot 14 Reverse



Lot 20 Obverse



Lot 20 Reverse



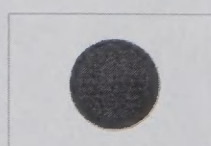
Lot 21 Obverse



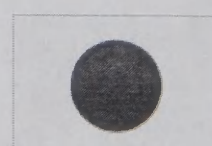
Lot 21 Reverse



Lot 24 Obverse






Lot 24 Reverse



Lot 25 Obverse

**Date:** Thu, 8 Nov 2007 08:29:25 -0800 (PST)

**From:** "coinrarities@yahoo.com" <coinrarities@yahoo.com>  View Contact Details  Add Mobile Alert

**Subject:**  Reest for your assistance on a possible new die variety of Small Planchet Pine Tree Shilling

**To:** "Eric Newman" <ericnumis@aol.com>

Dear Mr. Newman:

I purchased a small planchet pine tree shilling last month at auction. It is a holed specimen, about Very Fine-20 in sharpness (see the attached photos). I didn't think much of it at the time, but when I tried to attribute it, I was unable to (using Noe and the Ford sale catalog).

I am wondering if it is either a contemporary counterfeit, or perhaps some sort of counterfeit made at a later date for collectors that I was not aware of (I collect those). It weighs a light 45 grains or so, a bit lighter than I would expect, even with the hole.

The only thing I can tell you about the provenance of the coin is that it came out of a country auction in Vermont last month, where I purchased it. They were dispersing the coin collection of a school administrator in Peru, NY who died in 1991. He was a school official in that town from 1938-1963, from what I have found out so far.

From the photos, can you give me your initial impressions? The new owners said they would be happy to ship you the coin in early December for your opinion if you wished to see it.

Sincerely,  
Dave Wnuck

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early gold, and rare type coins!

Subj: **Reest for your assistance on a possible new die variety of Small Planchet Pine Tree Shilling**  
Date: 11/8/2007 10:30:11 A.M. Central Standard Time  
From: [coinrarities@yahoo.com](mailto:coinrarities@yahoo.com)  
Reply-to: [dave@CoinRaritiesOnline.com](mailto:dave@CoinRaritiesOnline.com)  
To: [ericnumis@aol.com](mailto:ericnumis@aol.com)

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Dave Whuck

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for the finest in US colonial,  
early gold, and rare type coins!



Subj: **Re: Small Planchet Pine Tree Shilling**  
 Date: 11/9/2007 9:34:04 P.M. Central Standard Time  
 From: [coinrarities@yahoo.com](mailto:coinrarities@yahoo.com)  
 Reply-to: [dave@CoinRaritiesOnline.com](mailto:dave@CoinRaritiesOnline.com)  
 To: [EricNumis@aol.com](mailto:EricNumis@aol.com)

Dear Eric:

Thanks so much for your prompt and detailed reply. We will begin accumulating the data you have requested, and we would be glad to send the coin to you on January 10th, 2008.

Thanks for expressing an interest in solving this numismatic mystery. We are as intrigued as you are!

Sincerely,  
Dave W.

**EricNumis@aol.com** wrote:

Dear Mr. Wnuck:

I was fascinated by the excellent image of the above which you sent me. I am not familiar with either the obverse or reverse variety and would be glad to study it shortly. It is as you realize a complicated problem to determine whether it is a genuine new variety, a circulating contemporary counterfeit, a modern fake or an older fake. This is a challenge I have often faced.

I must have all of the facts which you can assemble including the name, place and date of the auction at which it was acquired and by whom and at what price; any change or changes in ownership between then and now, any opinions previously rendered by any one; and any other details you may be able to furnish. What other coins were in the school administrator's collection?

The coin apparently did not lose much weight from the punched hole because the end of the punch was pointed and round at the tip and then square at the shank with substantial side accumulation resulting from the blow.

Unless you have already determined the data we will undertake to obtain the exact weight, specific gravity and perhaps any elements adulterating the silver and copper mix.

I am quite involved with several projects at this time and prefer to work on it beginning on or after January 10, 2008 when you could send it to me. You may send me other data prior to that.

Keep finding interesting numismatic items. Eric P. Newman

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Subj: **Re : do not send the purported cft Pine Tree 12d until after 1/10/08**  
 Date: 1/14/2008 4:46:56 P.M. Central Standard Time  
 From: [coinrarities@yahoo.com](mailto:coinrarities@yahoo.com)  
 Reply-to: [dave@CoinRaritiesOnline.com](mailto:dave@CoinRaritiesOnline.com)  
 To: [ericnumis@aol.com](mailto:ericnumis@aol.com)

Hi Eric:

I haven't forgotten about you. You asked me not to send the purported contemporary counterfeit small planchet pine tree shilling to you until after January 10, 2008.

I went directly from the FUN show to the Stack's Americana sale here in NYC, so I haven't mailed it to you yet.

I plan on mailing it to you on Thursday of this week, if you will be in town.

To what address should I send it?

Thanks,  
 Dave Wnuck  
 Wallingford, CT

-----Original Message-----

From: [coinrarities@yahoo.com](mailto:coinrarities@yahoo.com) [mailto:[coinrarities@yahoo.com](mailto:coinrarities@yahoo.com)]  
 Sent: Friday, November 09, 2007 10:34 PM  
 To: [EricNumis@aol.com](mailto:EricNumis@aol.com)  
 Subject: Re: Small Planchet Pine Tree Shilling

Dear Eric:

Thanks so much for your prompt and detailed reply. We will begin accumulating the data you have requested, and we would be glad to send the coin to you on January 10th, 2008.

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The coin apparently did not lose much weight from the punched hole because the end of the punch was pointed and round at the tip and then square at the shank with substantial side accumulation resulting from the blow.

Unless you have already determined the data we will undertake to

Wednesday, January 16, 2008 AOL: EricNumis

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I am quite involved with several projects at this time and prefer to work on it beginning on or after January 10, 2008 when you could send it to me. You may send me other data prior to that.

Keep finding interesting numismatic items.

Eric P. Newman

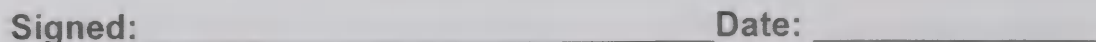
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Subj: **Submitted Pine Tree Shilling**  
Date: 1/30/2008 7:55:00 P.M. Central Standard Time  
From: EricNumis  
To: Coinrarities@yahoo.com  
CC: stuartlevine@comcast.net

Dear David:

Since receiving the above coin I find that four owners are involved. This means I may have four to report to and four who could possibly help me. Therefore I am giving you a preliminary report to stimulate your thinking as well as to have you make further comment.

Noe's 1952 Pine Tree Coinage lists item 31 which has a similar hole punched through it and is very short in weight. Kleeberg 1991 does not mention Noe 31. However Kleeberg lists a # 107 which is Noe 13 and describes it as a Contemporary Counterfeit.

I want to report some preliminary finding as to your coin. I find that your coin is medal turn and not coin turn. This is not found on any other Pine Tree coinage except the Noe 31. You can confirm this by lining up the hole using the two sides opposite each other on the images. Kleeberg describes the coin turn position on all Pine Tree coinage.

I notice that the I in IN on the obverse of your coin is unusually large and may have been cut with the same I punch used in XII on the reverse.

I also notice that the hole punched through your coin is round on the reverse and somewhat square on the obverse. The excess metal came out on the obverse and may have been filed off or hammered off a little. The nail which was used to punch the hole could be a square nail with a round point but that does not seem correct because the entry point is round and the exit shape is square. Is the hole a way of stealing a little more silver? All of the foregoing is preliminary and there is a lot more work to be done. I just want you to know it ain't easy to diagnose these pieces and welcome your thoughts.

Please pine for me. Eric

---

Start the year off right. [Easy ways to stay in shape](#) in the new year.

Subj: **RE: Submitted Pine Tree Shilling**  
Date: 1/30/2008 9:47:43 P.M. Central Standard Time  
From: [stuartlevine@comcast.net](mailto:stuartlevine@comcast.net)  
To: [EricNumis@aol.com](mailto:EricNumis@aol.com)

Hi Eric,

I think that all Pine Tree coinage is oriented in the medal turn manner.

Stu

---

**From:** [EricNumis@aol.com](mailto:EricNumis@aol.com) [<mailto:EricNumis@aol.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 30, 2008 8:55 PM  
**To:** [Coinrarities@yahoo.com](mailto:Coinrarities@yahoo.com)  
**Cc:** [stuartlevine@comcast.net](mailto:stuartlevine@comcast.net)  
**Subject:** Submitted Pine Tree Shilling

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Please pine for me. Eric

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Subj: **Re: Submitted Pine Tree Shilling**  
 Date: 1/31/2008 7:33:31 A.M. Central Standard Time  
 From: [coinrarities@yahoo.com](mailto:coinrarities@yahoo.com)  
 Reply-to: [dave@CoinRaritiesOnline.com](mailto:dave@CoinRaritiesOnline.com)  
 To: [EricNumis@aol.com](mailto:EricNumis@aol.com)

Dear Eric:

Thanks so much for the preliminary analysis of this coin. I will forward your initial comments to the other 3 owners, and perhaps that will stimulate some additional thoughts and ideas.

Best wishes,  
 Dave Wnuck

***EricNumis@aol.com*** wrote:

Dear David:

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 early gold, and rare type coins!

Thursday, February 07, 2008 AOL: EricNumis

Subj: **pine tree shilling**  
 Date: 2/5/2008 5:49:44 P.M. Central Standard Time  
 From: Roger6161  
 To: EricNumis  
 CC: RMartin@iso.com, coinrarities@yahoo.com, dave@CoinRaritiesOnline.com, Roger6161

Dear Mr. Eric Newman,

I believe "authenticating" the coin, deciding whether the coin in question is a contemporary piece, is one of the most difficult and important numismatic decisions anyone has to face.

A. Terranova, J. Kraljevich, G. Stevens and R. Martin, have each said that the coin in question is probably a contemporary piece.

This Pine Tree looks and feels real to me. The "square nail hole" used to combat evil spirits or to be nailed on a wall or beam for good luck, seems appropriate in placement, size and age. The lettering and pellets on the obverse and reverse appear unusually large and extremely well executed. The owner appears to have bought and sold the Pine Tree as real and the auction house believed it to be so.

Non destructive trace element analysis testing and comparing variety styles of known Pine Tree Shillings are, of course, the correct methodologies and you will ultimately prevail. I know your numismatic decision making will be intellectually correct and objective.

(In the early 1990's, when I asked Walter Breen to "authenticate" an Indian Peace medal I owned, he said "I can't tell if it is real or a copy." Of course, for Walter, honesty was his most important decision making quality.)

What a tangled web we weave

Once we practice to deceive

Yes, I pine for you. Best of luck and remain well.

**Email me anytime**

*A respectful admirer,*

Michael Spencer c/o Roger6161@aol.com

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Eric

I realize how difficult the problem is but if it were easy it would not be as challenging.

Please disregard the comment about coin turn and medal turn.

Silver pieces were in the West Indies and South America.

have been from a later date. The coin could have been holed to sew on a dress as so many Spanish American

The hole I have determined is probably from a nail with a four sided point and a round shank. The nail might

Thank you for your comments about the submitted Pine Tree shilling.

Dear Mr. Spencer:

Subj: **Re: pine tree shilling**  
 Date: 2/7/2008 2:36:24 P.M. Central Standard Time  
 From: EricNumis  
 To: Roger6161

Thursday, February 07, 2008 AOL: EricNumis

Sunday, March 09, 2008 AOL: EricNumis

Subj: **pine tree shilling**  
 Date: 3/9/2008 1:21:47 P.M. Central Daylight Time  
 From: Roger6161  
 To: EricNumis, dave@CoinRaritiesOnline.com, RMartin@iso.com

Dear Mr Eric Newman,

*I want to personally thank you for looking at our pine tree shilling with such perseverance and continued honest interest.*

The Noe 13 x Norweb 10/12/87 Lot # 1204 had a weight of 43.7 grains and

The Noe 14 x Ringo 7/30/85 had a weight of 42.4 grains

Both were cut down, intentionally clipped and **"considered contemporary counterfeits."**

*Email me anytime with any questions or comments.*

Respectfully

**Michael Spencer** @ roger6161@aol.com and **Robert M. Martin** @ Rmartin@iso.com and **David Wnuck** @ dave@coinraritiesonline.com and John Agre

Dear Mr. Spencer:

Thank you for your comments about the submitted Pine Tree shilling.

The hole I have determined is probably from a nail with a four sided point and a round shank. The nail might have been from a later date. The coin could have been holed to sew on a dress as so many Spanish American silver pieces were in the West Indies and South America.

Please disregard the comment about coin turn and medal turn.

I realize how difficult the problem is but if it were easy it would not be as challenging.

Eric

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It's Tax Time! Get tips, forms and advice on AOL Money & Finance.

Thank you for the references.  
 In the Stacks sale of the Uhurck collection of Feb. 26, 2008 there is a similar hole in a Noe 20 and the coin weighs 68 grains. There are so many reasons for holes such as good luck charms nailed to a doorway, a coin nailed to the cross-section of the base of a mast for a ship, on a necklace, on an Indian arm band, sewn on clothing similar to a sequin or bangle, etc. A hole could be used to hold the coin while filling the edge. My friend who is going to try to make a non-destructive metal trace analysis just had a new hip joint put in and that will cause a modest delay. I am besieged with numismatic problems anyhow. Eric

Dear Owners:

Subj: **Re: pine tree shilling**  
 Date: 3/9/2008 4:12:58 P.M. Central Daylight Time  
 From: EricNumis  
 To: Roger6161

Sunday, March 09, 2008 AOL: EricNumis



Subj: **Re: pine tree shilling; Fugio Book; Images from the Mattatuck Museum**  
Date: 3/11/2008 7:34:22 A.M. Central Daylight Time  
From: [coinrarities@yahoo.com](mailto:coinrarities@yahoo.com)  
Reply-to: [dave@CoinRaritiesOnline.com](mailto:dave@CoinRaritiesOnline.com)  
To: [ericnumis@aol.com](mailto:ericnumis@aol.com)

Dear Eric:

Thanks so much for your efforts to date in the "mysterious pine tree shilling". We all appreciate it.

Oh, and I wanted to send you an email congratulating you on your outstanding effort with your new edition of the Fugio book. Wow – color photos, updated rarity ratings, die state info — it is absolutely fantastic!

Lastly, I wanted to let you know that I purchased images from the Mattatuck Museum of one of the Fugio restrike dies, as well as a uniface restrike trial piece struck in white metal. I'm not sure at this point what to do with these images, but I somehow want to share them with the numismatic community. If you have ideas about them, or can use them in one of your projects (an addenda to your book, perhaps?), then you are most welcome to use them.

Numismatically yours,  
Dave Wnuck

**roger6161@aol.com** wrote:

-----Original Message-----

From: [EricNumis@aol.com](mailto:EricNumis@aol.com)  
To: [Roger6161@aol.com](mailto:Roger6161@aol.com)  
Sent: Sun, 9 Mar 2008 5:12 pm  
Subject: Re: pine tree shilling

Dear Owners:

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---

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early gold, and rare type coins!

Tuesday, March 11, 2008 AOL: EricNumis

Subj: **Fw: Pine Tree Shilling**  
Date: 5/22/2008 12:19:49 P.M. Central Daylight Time  
From: [coinrarities@yahoo.com](mailto:coinrarities@yahoo.com)  
Reply-to: [dave@CoinRaritiesOnline.com](mailto:dave@CoinRaritiesOnline.com)  
To: [ericnumis@aol.com](mailto:ericnumis@aol.com)

Dear Eric:

Just checking in regarding the (possible) contemporary cft small planchet pine tree shilling.

Is anything new?

Sincerely,

Dave Whnuck

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--- On Mon, 3/10/08, [roger6161@aol.com](mailto:roger6161@aol.com) <[roger6161@aol.com](mailto:roger6161@aol.com)> wrote:

From: [roger6161@aol.com](mailto:roger6161@aol.com) <[roger6161@aol.com](mailto:roger6161@aol.com)>  
Subject: pine tree shilling  
To: [EricNumis@aol.com](mailto:EricNumis@aol.com), [RMartin@iso.com](mailto:RMartin@iso.com), [coinrarities@yahoo.com](mailto:coinrarities@yahoo.com)  
Date: Monday, March 10, 2008, 11:27 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: [EricNumis@aol.com](mailto:EricNumis@aol.com)  
To: [Roger6161@aol.com](mailto:Roger6161@aol.com)  
Sent: Sun, 9 Mar 2008 5:12 pm  
Subject: Re: pine tree shilling

Dear Owners:

Thank you for the references.

In the Stacks sale of the Uhurck collection of Feb. 26, 2008 there is a similar hole in a Noe 20 and the coin weighs 68 grains. There are so many reasons for holes such as good luck charms nailed to a doorway, a coin nailed to the cross-section of the base of a mast for a ship, on a necklace, on an Indian arm band, sewn on clothing similar to a sequin or bangle, etc. A hole could be used to hold the coin while

Thursday, May 22, 2008 AOL: EricNumis

Subj: **Re: Fw: Pine Tree Shilling**  
Date: 5/22/2008 1:33:16 P.M. Central Daylight Time  
From: [EricNumis](#)  
To: [dave@CoinRaritiesOnline.com](mailto:dave@CoinRaritiesOnline.com)

Dear Owners:

I have again requested my professor friend at Washington University to arrange for the trace element analysis of the coin. He is rather busy due to just recovering from a hip replacement. This is very important and so please be patient as I told you from the beginning. I have not discovered anything startling since my last report except to find a couple of other pine trees with holes in various positions, the holes being of various shapes and sizes.

Most of my efforts have been to straighten out challenges and problems from my recently published FUGIO book. In addition I have to complete the final proofreading of the 5th edition of my Early Paper Money of America.

Keep on finding unusual stuff and prosper.

Erric

---

Get trade secrets for amazing burgers. [Watch "Cooking with Tyler Florence" on AOL Food.](#)



Subj: **Re: Fw: Pine Tree Shilling**  
Date: 5/22/2008 2:05:51 P.M. Central Daylight Time  
From: [coinrarities@yahoo.com](mailto:coinrarities@yahoo.com)  
Reply-to: [dave@CoinRaritiesOnline.com](mailto:dave@CoinRaritiesOnline.com)  
To: [EricNumis@aol.com](mailto:EricNumis@aol.com)

Hi Eric:

Thanks so much for the update.

It sounds like you have plenty of numismatic projects going on out there in St. Louis!

Sincerely,

Dave Wnuck

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early gold, and rare type coins!

--- On Thu, 5/22/08, [EricNumis@aol.com](mailto:EricNumis@aol.com) <[EricNumis@aol.com](mailto:EricNumis@aol.com)> wrote:

From: [EricNumis@aol.com](mailto:EricNumis@aol.com) <[EricNumis@aol.com](mailto:EricNumis@aol.com)>  
Subject: Re: Fw: Pine Tree Shilling  
To: [dave@CoinRaritiesOnline.com](mailto:dave@CoinRaritiesOnline.com)  
Date: Thursday, May 22, 2008, 2:33 PM

Dear Owners:

I have again requested my professor friend at Washington University to arrange for the trace element analysis of the coin. He is rather busy due to just recovering from a hip replacement. This is very important and so please be patient as I told you from the beginning. I have not discovered anything startling since my last report except to find a couple of other pine trees with holes in various positions, the holes being of various shapes and sizes.

Most of my efforts have been to straighten out challenges and problems from my recently published FUGIO book. In addition I have to complete the final proofreading of the 5th edition of my Early Paper Money of America.

Keep on finding unusual stuff and prosper.

Erric

---

Get trade secrets for amazing burgers. [Watch "Cooking with Tyler Florence" on AOL Food.](#)

Subj: **The mystery Pine Tree shilling. A hole in one.**  
Date: 6/13/2008 8:10:17 P.M. Central Daylight Time  
From: [EricNumis](#)  
To: [dave@coinraritiesonline.com](mailto:dave@coinraritiesonline.com)

Dear owners:

I want all of you to be sure to read the article on Pine Tree Shillings in the current issue of C 4.

It shows the enormous extent to which the weight of these genuine shillings was reduced to steal the silver by filing, clipping, and sweating. It shows how they were passed for 2 reales pieces, etc.. It shows how many different ways the shapes were modified. The weights of genuine modified pieces illustrated were so low and the contour so obviously reduced that there must have been an acceptance in circulation many of those pieces somewhere at some time at some value.

The thickness of the planchets of genuine pieces was not uniform because the sheets of silver could not be rolled and stretched evenly and smoothly because good machinery was not available in Massachusetts Bay and because England would not have cooperated. Appropriate rolling machinery was not even well developed enough in Europe and the cost and risk of notoriety in obtaining it would have been too discouraging for colonists. Thus much of the sheet must have been of somewhat uneven and varying in thickness. They certainly did not weigh each piece after striking but probably weighed a sackful or boxful before or after a count. This raises a question which I cannot rule out at this time. The coin may be an unknown genuine variety which has been cut down, circulated and finally holed to be used as jewelry. The contemporary counterfeit hypothesis may not be justified when it would be easier to cut down and steal silver from genuinely struck pieces (particularly those at proper weight or overweight) than go to the trouble of making dies, rolling equipment and minting machinery. Now do not get your hopes up just because I have speculated on this proposition. A subsequent forgery or a modern forgery with all the defects your piece has might have less of a reason to be produced. Nobody would make your piece as an income source or to try to fool collectors..

The above is why your piece presents such a difficult and fascinating problem.

I will continue to study the shape, position and development of every part of your piece.

Now I want your team to give me any further ideas you may have. Teamwork can solve things one individual may not be able to do.

My best Eric

---

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Subj: **Re: The mystery Pine Tree shilling. A hole in one.**  
 Date: 6/14/2008 9:12:48 A.M. Central Daylight Time  
 From: [coinrarities@yahoo.com](mailto:coinrarities@yahoo.com)  
 Reply-to: [dave@CoinRaritiesOnline.com](mailto:dave@CoinRaritiesOnline.com)  
 To: [EricNumis@aol.com](mailto:EricNumis@aol.com)  
 CC: [roger61in61@hotmail.com](mailto:roger61in61@hotmail.com), [rmartin@iso.com](mailto:rmartin@iso.com)

Dear Eric:

Thanks for your thoughts on the mystery Pine Tree Shilling to date. You are right in that it would seem to be a lot of work to produce false dies to make a small profit to produce a lightweight but seemingly (to the eye) full weight coin.

The dies that made it seem to be well made, and they seem to have the "look & feel" of a coin of a coin that was produced from the Boston Mint. Indeed, I don't know what this says about my numismatic skills, but I (and my dealer underbidders) were bidding on it as a genuine but pierced small planchet pine tree shilling at that estate auction in Vermont last year, not as a new discovery possible contemporary counterfeit.

One thought comes to mind: is there a nondestructive way to determine if it is made of debased silver? That would be a second way for the counterfeiter to profit.

If it is a newly discovered genuine variety, due to the light weight of the coin it would have to be clipped down quite a bit. Do you see areas in which it may have been carefully clipped down to that extent?

Sincerely,

Dave Whnuck

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 early gold, and rare type coins!

--- On Fri, 6/13/08, [EricNumis@aol.com](mailto:EricNumis@aol.com) <[EricNumis@aol.com](mailto:EricNumis@aol.com)> wrote:

From: [EricNumis@aol.com](mailto:EricNumis@aol.com) <[EricNumis@aol.com](mailto:EricNumis@aol.com)>  
 Subject: The mystery Pine Tree shilling. A hole in one.  
 To: [dave@coinraritiesonline.com](mailto:dave@coinraritiesonline.com)  
 Date: Friday, June 13, 2008, 9:10 PM

Dear owners:

I want all of you to be sure to read the article on Pine Tree Shillings in the current issue of C 4.  
 It shows the enormous extent to which the weight of these genuine shillings was reduced to steal the

Saturday, June 14, 2008 AOL: EricNumis



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I will continue to study the shape, position and development of every part of your piece.

Now I want your team to give me any further ideas you may have. Teamwork can solve things one individual may not be able to do.

My best Eric

---

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Subj: **New idea about Mass Bay contemporary silver counterfeits**  
Date: 7/6/2008 10:33:31 A.M. Eastern Daylight Time  
From: [EricNumis](#)  
To: [dave@coinraritiesonline.com](mailto:dave@coinraritiesonline.com)

Dear Owners:

I have been studying your piece and other Pine trees carefully and am hatching what I think is an entirely new idea. I am wondering if there is no such thing as a contemporary Pine Tree counterfeit in silver. This theory is not for publicizing, releasing or discussion among other than your group of owners but you may comment to me.

The cutting off of an amount of silver by clipping, sweating and polishing genuine pieces was so commonplace and so simple that the incentive to go to the trouble of preparing dies and obtaining striking equipment for silver counterfeits seems somewhat ridiculous. This is particularly true when the small diameter pine trees were produced after the large diameter pine trees because the trimmed large pine trees resembled the small diameter pine trees so much. An untrained person receiving a cut down large diameter pine tree might naturally look at and think it was a small diameter piece. Weighing was impractical in many instances. There were many large and small pine trees which were struck off center on one or both sides and therefore were easy to clip without disturbing the design too much on that side or sides.

A substantial number of cut down pine trees are described and imaged in the recent article in C4 with their weights specified.

I am wondering whether Pine Tree Noe 13 is a contemporary counterfeit as has been concluded in the past by many of us as perhaps it may be a cut down different variety.

I am going to see if there has been any counterfeit of a pine tree in silver mentioned in any criminal proceeding or newspaper comment as my deceased friend Kenneth Scott wrote a book about these matters long ago. One of my writings commented on a Bay shilling counterfeit made in the 18th century but it was a pot metal casting operation which included Spanish Dollars.

You may not agree with me in my tentative thinking but I too am still challenging myself at this time.

I thank you again for giving me such a problem. Please comment if you wish. Eric

---

Gas prices getting you down? Search AOL Autos for fuel-efficient [used cars](#).

Subj: **Re: New idea about Mass Bay contemporary silver counterfeits**  
Date: 7/6/2008 5:14:08 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time  
From: [coinrarities@yahoo.com](mailto:coinrarities@yahoo.com)  
Reply-to: [dave@CoinRaritiesOnline.com](mailto:dave@CoinRaritiesOnline.com)  
To: [EricNumis@aol.com](mailto:EricNumis@aol.com)  
CC: [rmartin@iso.com](mailto:rmartin@iso.com), [roger61in61@hotmail.com](mailto:roger61in61@hotmail.com), [john@coinraritiesonline.com](mailto:john@coinraritiesonline.com)

Hi Eric:

A very intriguing theory! It always bothered me that contemporary counterfeiters went to such trouble to cut dies, etc. Counterfeiters are crooks, and crooks are generally lazy by definition. It is one thing to make up dies and crank out large quantities (such as Machin's Mills products, as well as some of the Bogus Bust Halves from the early-mid 1800's).

But -- I never took it the final step to posit that there was possibly no such thing going on circa late 1600's-mid 1700's with Mass silver.

I guess if I were a counterfeiter and I did go to the trouble of making up dies, I might want to profit two ways: through lighter weight and also through debased silver. I wonder if a specific gravity test (or -- preferably -- a nondestructive surface test) would either prove or disprove that possibility?

Anyway, these are just my first few thoughts on the matter.

Regards,  
Dave W.

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early gold, and rare type coins!

--- On Sun, 7/6/08, [EricNumis@aol.com](mailto:EricNumis@aol.com) <[EricNumis@aol.com](mailto:EricNumis@aol.com)> wrote:

From: [EricNumis@aol.com](mailto:EricNumis@aol.com) <[EricNumis@aol.com](mailto:EricNumis@aol.com)>  
Subject: New idea about Mass Bay contemporary silver counterfeits  
To: [dave@coinraritiesonline.com](mailto:dave@coinraritiesonline.com)  
Date: Sunday, July 6, 2008, 10:33 AM



Dear Owners:

I have been studying your piece and other Pine trees carefully and am hatching what I think is an entirely new idea. I am wondering if there is no such thing as a contemporary Pine Tree counterfeit in silver. This theory is not for publicizing, releasing or discussion among other than your group of owners but you may comment to me.

The cutting off of an amount of silver by clipping, sweating and polishing genuine pieces was so commonplace and so simple that the incentive to go to the trouble of preparing dies and obtaining striking equipment for silver counterfeits seems somewhat ridiculous. This is particularly true when the small diameter pine trees were produced after the large diameter pine trees because the trimmed large pine trees resembled the small diameter pine trees so much. An untrained person receiving a cut down large diameter pine tree might naturally look at and think it was a small diameter piece. Weighing was impractical in many instances. There were many large and small pine trees which were struck off center on one or both sides and therefore were easy to clip without disturbing the design too much on that side or sides.

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I am wondering whether Pine Tree Noe 13 is a contemporary counterfeit as has been concluded in the past by many of us as perhaps it may be a cut down different variety.

I am going to see if there has been any counterfeit of a pine tree in silver mentioned in any criminal proceeding or newspaper comment as my deceased friend Kenneth Scott wrote a book about these matters long ago. One of my writings commented on a Bay shilling counterfeit made in the 18th century but it was a pot metal casting operation which included Spanish Dollars.

You may not agree with me in my tentative thinking but I too am still challenging myself at this time.

I thank you again for giving me such a problem. Please comment if you wish. Eric

---

Gas prices getting you down? Search AOL Autos for fuel-efficient [used cars](#).

Subj: **holed pine tree shilling**  
Date: 11/25/2008 3:46:13 PM Central Standard Time  
From: Roger6161  
To: [dave@CoinRaritiesOnline.com](mailto:dave@CoinRaritiesOnline.com), [katsandkoins@live.com](mailto:katsandkoins@live.com), Roger6161, EricNumis  
CC: [bruceam@touro.edu](mailto:bruceam@touro.edu)

Dear Eric,

I am writing to you regarding the holed pine tree small planchet shilling sent to you early this year by me, Michael Spencer, Robert Martin, David Wnuck and John Agere.

The question remains is the shilling a new variety, a contemporary counterfeit or some other possibility. I know that you were trying to do a non-destructive metal trace analysis and were comparing the dies with other known real and counterfeit die varieties.

To most colonial collectors, this intriguing numismatic mystery can only be solved by a bona fide colonial numismatic expert. You are universally considered to be that person. It is an awesome responsibility that you have earned. Whatever you authoritively say is accepted as true. By being so correct and honest and fair in your publications, I am ready to accept what you have or will decide.

If you would like to keep the coin to continue with the study, I will propose a **trade**. ***You send back to me in trade any colonial item or items and I will accept the trade unilaterally.*** If this coin has a place in your collection I would be honored to have it placed there. I will then have another reason to see St. Louis.

Thanks so very much for your time and effort  
Michael Xavier Spencer, in care of Robert Martin, David Wnuck and John Agere

Doctor Michael Xavier Spencer Esq. the Third

---

Traveling over the river or through the woods this holiday season? [Get the MapQuest Toolbar](#). Directions, Traffic, Gas Prices & More!

Subj: **Re: holed pine tree shilling**  
Date: 11/25/2008 4:49:54 PM Central Standard Time  
From: [EricNumis](#)  
To: [Roger6161](#)

Dear heavily titled Roger:

I have been somewhat diverted from work on your group's holed Pine Tree shilling because this year I had my book on the Fugio coppers published and my 5th edition of Early Paper Money of America has just been published. I have been extensively involved recently in the forgery of the 1853 \$20 USAOG matter which a group of about 25 people at the Baltimore ANA show last August has unanimously decided was a forgery confirming my written opinion presented about over 40 years ago.

As to your Pine Tree my present tentative thinking is that it is a new genuine variety as well as Pine Trees known as Noe 13 and Noe 14 which previously have been classified as contemporary counterfeits. I believe I told you previously that I have concluded that no silver counterfeits of Pine Trees were made during at least the century following the minting of the genuine pieces. There are no records of any silver counterfeits known during that period.

I have found write ups of several newly published holed cut down Pine Tree examples off genuine pieces with weights given indicating an enormous amount of trimming and holing activity.

The good news is that one of the professors at Washington University here has finally decided to keep his promise to me to check the surface of a group of Pine Trees with Xray diffraction. This will give us only surface substances and not interior content. They will give us detailed specific gravity also. This is very important.

We do not wish to get into a conflict of interest situation as to your coin and please assure your group that these counterfeit problems are fascinating and very exciting to be a finder of them.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity of trying to solve this puzzle.

Happy Thanksgiving to all of you.

Eric

---

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Subj: **holed pine tree shilling**  
 Date: 4/14/2009 4:46:00 P.M. Central Daylight Time  
 From: Roger6161  
 To: EricNumis  
 CC: dave@CoinRaritiesOnline.com, robertmartin22@live.com, Roger6161

Dear Mr Eric Newman,

**First off I hope you are in good health and having a great time.** Secondly I am interested in what findings you have decided in our Pine Tree Shilling. I do hope it is a new genuine variety or a contemporary counterfeit. I hope the x ray diffraction was completed and the findings positive. **I really do appreciate your help.** If there is anything I can do to repay you just ask. If you would like to keep the coin and send me a coin or coins back in a trade, your wish is my command. Your reputation for honesty and fairness has reached me. Please email me anytime or call me on my cell @ 914 473 0406

**Again, I hope you are doing well.**

Doctor Michael Xavier Spencer Esq. the Third

-----Original Message-----

From: EricNumis@aol.com  
 To: Roger6161@aol.com  
 Sent: Tue, 25 Nov 2008 5:49 pm  
 Subject: Re: holed pine tree shilling

Dear heavily titled Roger:

I have been somewhat diverted from work on your group's holed Pine Tree shilling because this year I had my book on the Fugio coppers published and my 5th edition of Early Paper Money of America has just been published. I have been extensively involved recently in the forgery of the 1853 \$20 USAOG matter which a group of about 25 people at the Baltimore ANA show last August has unanimously decided was a forgery confirming my written opinion presented about over 40 years ago.

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We do not wish to get into a conflict of interest situation as to your coin and please assure your group that these counterfeit problems are fascinating and very exciting to be a finder of them.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity of trying to solve this puzzle.

Happy Thanksgiving to all of you. Eric

---

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Subj: **Re: health/holed pine tree shilling**  
Date: 7/5/2009 4:49:27 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time  
From: [EricNumis](#)  
To: [Roger6161](#)

Dear Group:

I am enjoying to the full extent some of my children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren here in the Martha's Vineyard along with the wonders of nature here. We have several bird feeders in front of our door with various size screens around the feeders so the large, medium and small size birds can be separately fed with different seeds.

I have pictures of your pine tree shilling with me. The professors in St. Louis who are doing the X-ray diffraction have not completed their work and I am awaiting the return of your coin from them with their findings. I am studying Noe 13 at the same time, all of known examples of Noe 13 have been cut down. As I previously explained I have never identified a silver pine tree counterfeit made during the circulating period. I am checking for images of various holed pine trees in catalogs and if you know of any please let me know as it is probable that I have missed some. This project is as quite difficult as you realize and I hope I can find the answer.  
Thanks for the nice things you say about my reputation. Eric

In a message dated 7/5/2009 3:04:37 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time, Roger6161 writes:

Dear Eric Newman,

**First off, I hope you are in good health and enjoying your fame.** You are such a well respected numismatist by so many acquaintances that I remain thrilled to have you help us with our holed pine tree.

Second I hope you are vacationing at Martha's Vineyard as you planned.

Has there been any decisions regarding whether the holed pine tree shilling is a contemporary counterfeit, a new variety or should be classified in some other manner? I realize using surface and near surface X-ray diffraction and other tests take time to coordinate and evaluate.

I would do anything within reason to be of assistance. Yes, I would travel to St. Louis or Martha's Vineyard, for example. I would bring my colonial coin collection that would make you smile, for sure!

*If you want to keep the holed pine tree for your extraordinary collection, let me know. I do think "outside the box." and would be glad to do most anything you request.*

Thanks so very much for helping make a determination for this coin.

I remain a true admirer.

Michael Xavier Spencer ..... 914 473 0406.. c/o Man of many titles.....  
with Robert Martin & David Wnuck & John Agere

-----Original Message-----

From: [EricNumis@aol.com](#)

To: [Roger6161@aol.com](#)

Sent: Wed, Apr 15, 2009 8:19 pm

Subject: Re: holed pine tree shilling

Dear Doctor Spencer:

I am pleased to inform you that a few days ago I turned over to my friend, a professor in the Chemistry Department of Washington University here, and he is being joined by an engineering department professor to make X-ray diffraction of the surface and near surface metal content of about five 17th century Massachusetts silver shillings, some 80% silver Canadian 20th century coins and some 90% silver US 20th century coins. The US and Canadian pieces have been selected with and without natural surface corrosion and some can be cleaned in part to compare with corroded areas on identical coins. The Massachusetts pieces were selected with different amounts of natural surface corrosion. In this way my friends at the University can tell me how surface corrosion can be compared to the material just inside the corrosion on a coin without causing harm to the

Massachusetts pieces. They said it will take a couple of weeks for them to return the pieces to me as the coins must get rid of all Xray contamination.

I have located several images of holed genuine short weight Pine Trees and so that event may have not been unusual although I am not sure of whether this was done by native American or American colonial people as a dress decoration or for nailing on a doorway or ship. The holing was not expedient to steal silver from a coin in my opinion.

As I previously said I do not believe your coin is a contemporary counterfeit. A much later forgery would not have a hole put in it. This is a real puzzlement<sup>20</sup>as you realize.

I will send you what is learned when I receive the anticipated report.

Thank you for inquiring about my health. I am very lucky to have most of my marbles and plan to go to Martha's Vineyard for the summer.

Eric P. Newman

In a message dated 4/14/2009 4:46:00 P.M. Central Daylight Time, Roger6161 writes:

Dear Mr Eric Newman,

**First off I hope you are in good health and having a great time.** Secondly I am interested in what findings you have decided in our Pine Tree Shilling. I do hope it is a new genuine variety or a contemporary counterfeit. I hope the x ray diffraction was completed and the findings positive. **I really do appreciate your help.** If there is anything I can do to repay you just ask. ; If you would like to keep the coin and send me a coin or coins back in a trade, your wish is my command. Your reputation for honesty and fairness has reached me. Please email me anytime or call me on my cell @ 914 473 0406

**Again, I hope you are doing well.**

Doctor Michael Xavier Spencer Esq. the Third

-----Original Message-----

From: [EricNumis@aol.com](mailto:EricNumis@aol.com)

To: [Roger6161@aol.com](mailto:Roger6161@aol.com)

Sent: Tue, 25 Nov 2008 5:49 pm

Subject: Re: holed pine tree shilling

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Thank you for giving me the opportunity of trying to solve this puzzle.

Happy Thanksgiving to all of you. Eric



Subj: **holed colonial coin**  
Date: 11/1/2009 11:57:18 A.M. Central Standard Time  
From: [Roger6161](#)  
To: [EricNumis](#)

Dear Mr. Eric Newman,

I am writing to you about the holed, possibly contemporary counterfeit, that you are holding for me and my partners. I realize you have been busy publishing a Fugio Copper text, the 5th Edition of Early Paper Money and many other projects. I am hoping you have decided how to classify the silver holed coin we sent to you. Is it a genuine new contemporary variety as the Noe 13 and Noe 14 are considered to be? Did the specific gravity test give additional proof of it being a contemporary counterfeit?

It is an honor to me to have the coin reside with you. You can keep the coin and send me back anything you would like in trade. That is correct. Personally I would be ecstatic with that outcome. It would be another unexplainable event in my life to all the pseudo intellectuals surrounding me. If you would rather send the holed Pine Tree back, that is fine also.

Truly I hope you feeling well and having a wonderful time.

I am indebted to you for taking the time to study the coin using a specific gravity test(s) and to do other comparative studies to attempt to make a conclusive determination.

Dr. Michael Xavier Spencer Esq. the third  
and Robert M. Martin  
with David Whuck  
and John Agere

Subj: **Holed Pine Tree mystery coin**  
Date: 11/19/2009 2:08:55 P.M. Central Standard Time  
From: [EricNumis](#)  
To: [stuartlevine@comcast.net](mailto:stuartlevine@comcast.net)

Dear Stu:

Have a financial success and a great time at the C4 Convention.

As to your inquiry about the ownership of the holed unclassified Pine Tree Shilling I have been studying my correspondence shows the owners as Michael Spencer ( actually signed as DOCTOR MICHAEL XAVIER SPENCER ESQ.the THIRD ), Robert Martin, David Wnuck, and John Agere. You already knew some of the ownership participants. Please do not disclose these names further.

The specialist in the Massachusetts NE coinage who contacted me is Jack Howes whose 40 page tentative discourse on the subject I have just read. Do you know anything about him as he wants to come to see me early next year?

My best

Eric

Subj: **hole pine tree from new york**  
 Date: 2/19/2010 12:55:14 P.M. Central Standard Time  
 From: [roger6161@aol.com](mailto:roger6161@aol.com)  
 To: [ericnumis@aol.com](mailto:ericnumis@aol.com), [robertmartin22@live.com](mailto:robertmartin22@live.com)

Dear Mr. Eric Newman,

I am writing to you about the holed, possibly contemporary counterfeit, Pine Tree Shilling that you have been holding for me and my associates.

I appreciate that you for taken the time to objectively study the coin using specific gravity test(s) and to do so many other comparative studies in an attempt to make the correct conclusion about classifying the shilling. Is it a genuine new contemporary variety as the Noe 13 and Noe 14 are considered to be? If not, what?

As I have stated before you can keep the coin and send me back coin(s) you would like in exchange. Placing the coin in the proper sequence in your collection would be an honor. Some might consider this a "unique" offer but it is obviously a correct offer. The name Eric Newman in the field of numismatics is already an unblemished name of fairness and integrity. (For me, it would only continue my unusual numismatic trading strategy and style).

If you would rather send the holed Pine Tree back, that is fine also. Hopefully you would write some definitively sounding evaluation. It really is a stylistically and charming piece to me.

Be well. Please enjoy the email as it is intended.

I am in your debt and honored that you have taken the time and effort with this newly discovered holed Pine Tree Shilling.

Feel free to call me at home at 914 835 0220 anytime. I will answer any question you might have.

Respectfully,

*Dr. Michael Xavier Spencer Esq. the third....aka..... A Man of many Titles*

**and Robert M. Martin**

**with David Wnuck**

**and with John Agere**

*Telephonium 2/22/10 He is 61 yrs old, lecture  
 on History City of New York at Touro College in NYC.  
 Has 75 holed Comm. coppers from Rango  
 Has a few holed Mass shillings which may  
 belong to the group of 4, may give us one  
 or more. Attached for images of all holed  
 Mass shillings.*

Subj: **holed contemporary pine tree**  
Date: 3/21/2010 12:04:38 A.M. Central Daylight Time  
From: [roger6161@aol.com](mailto:roger6161@aol.com)  
To: [EricNumis@aol.com](mailto:EricNumis@aol.com), [robertmartin22@live.com](mailto:robertmartin22@live.com)

Dear Mr. Eric Newman,

Our telephone call regarding the holed pine tree we sent you was very very enjoyable. Yes, I was on my way to explain how wampum was being used in New York from the 1620's onward. "True New York "wampum" or "sewan" consisted of long strings of tiny purple and white beads sewn together into belts: a large belt, six feet or so in length would have contained six or seven thousand beads. The beads themselves were made from certain clam or whelk shells that could *only be found* along the shores of Naragansett Bay and Long Island Sound." The Iroquois did use the wampum for diplomatic and ceremonial purposes. The coastal Algonkians traded the wampum with the Mahicans. Governor William Bradford at Plymouth Massachusetts used wampum as "a great alteration" in the affairs of the entire region. Yes the (Dutch) West India Company were soon buying up all the wampum! Today I have been buying up some of the better "holed" colonial coins I can find, not unlike The West India Company (on a much much smaller scale, of course!)

Holed coins are mislabeled as mutilated or defaced coins. Holed coins were primarily used for decoration or for good luck or to ward off evil spirits (et al).

I believe the holed pine tree coin you have of ours is one of those holed coins.

I do realize that the placement of the hole may well be used to attach to a piece of clothing, in a utilitarian or decorative manner or possibly to the mast of a ship.

*If you could give a tentative explanation of the holed coin and send the coin back I would be elated.* If you want to keep or trade for the coin I will consider any request.

I am still in charge of the group but my leadership may clearly be on the wane.

(Governor Bradford led for so long!).

It is an honor to write to you. I do hope you are feeling well and doing great.

Your wish is my command and we have never met.

Email or call 24/7 @ my residence @ 914 835 0220

**Very Respectfully**

**Thanks again**

*Dr. Michael Xavier Spencer Esq. the third & Robert M. Martin with David Wnuck & John Agere.*



Subj: **Your messages**  
Date: 3/27/2010 7:47:35 P.M. Central Daylight Time  
From: [EricNumis@aol.com](mailto:EricNumis@aol.com)  
To: [Roger6161@aol.com](mailto:Roger6161@aol.com)

Dear Michael:

Thank you for your recent message which added to our telephone conversation.

I am satisfied that the hole in your coin was punched with a square nail. This was possible whether it was a genuine piece or a contemporary counterfeit made during the Pine Tree circulating period. I do not think it was struck as a later forgery. Washington University has just asked me if they could have it back for testing to see if it has traces of mercury. I hope you have no objection to that and I will retrieve it from my bank vault. It will be helpful in rendering their analytic conclusions.

You indicated that you had about 75 holed Connecticut copper pieces. I would like to know how many are hummerdingers. These would have two equal sized small holes an equal distance from the center and close to it along a diameter. I am sure you are familiar with the children's toy called the hummerdinger but if not I will be glad to explain it to you. I was amused by it as a boy and this was developed long long ago after cotton string became readily available.

My very best to you.

Eric

Subj: **the holed pine tree**  
 Date: 5/9/2010 2:21:57 P.M. Central Daylight Time  
 From: [roger6161@aol.com](mailto:roger6161@aol.com)  
 To: [EricNumis@aol.com](mailto:EricNumis@aol.com), [RobertMartin22@live.com](mailto:RobertMartin22@live.com)

Dear Eric Newman,

I am writing about the holed square nail Pine Tree Shilling that has gone through a content analysis by members of a College Physics Department.

Ultimately the question is whether the coin is genuine, a contemporary counterfeit or some other deliniation.

You are the person to decide what category the Pine Tree Shilling should or will be classified. It is an honor

not bestowed upon lightly upon someone but with your body of numismatic work it is clearly given correctly. I am humbled

to have sent you the coin and you also find the coin so fascinating. The size of the lettering, the square nail hole

and the metal content are among possible unusual and deciding factors.

I hope you can make a decision. About two and one half years have elapsed and my three partners/associates

remain only studious observers.

Please understand I refuse and **will not** press you. I would be ecstatic

1. if you would keep the coin and send some coin or coins back in trade so the coin is in your museum
2. decide this deserves a new Noe variety
3. if you have any other request I will most certainly reply

((As a side bar, as requested, I do have a humdinger Connecticut and a Connecticut with three uneven holes.. My prize holed Connecticut include but are not limited to a 2 1787 M 3.G-1, a holed Connecticut @ 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,& 12 O'clock on the obverse a 33.39-Z.20 in a high grade.....(Yes, I do have other holed state coppers & related issues))

The idea of holed Connecticut began with Mr. Mike Ringo who traded me the beginning of my collection twenty years ago

for a 1794 cent. (Trading you for the holed pine tree would continue my magical numismatic career. I would then have to

recompense my partners/associates which would be another glorious endeavor).

I hope you are feeling extremely well and enjoying it all. Being just a speck on the American numismatic landscape, our correspondence and telephone conversation have been an outright honor for me. I do know who you are and I remain

a man of many titles including

Dr. Michael Xavier Spencer Esq. the third representing Robert M. Martin w/ David Wnuck & John Agere  
 email [bruceam@touro.edu](mailto:bruceam@touro.edu)

24 hour message machine # 212 726 1299

home number #912 835 0220

**Thank you once again**

Michael Spencer

Subj: **Holed Pine Tree/humdingers/wellness/thanks**  
Date: 7/25/2010 6:37:07 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time  
From: roger6161@aol.com  
To: EricNumis@aol.com, robertmartin22@live.com, dave@CoinRaritiesOnline.com, john@coinraritiesonline.com

-----Original Message-----

From: EricNumis@aol.com  
To: roger6161@aol.com  
Sent: Fri, May 28, 2010 1:56 pm  
Subject: Re: Happy Birthday/Holed Pine Tree

Thank you for the birthday greetings. Now I have to try to work my way to 100. However if I were Chinese I would be 100 now as they count the beginning of the year as the proper age number as when you are born you are in your first year. I am going to work extensively on your coin during the summer as I am assembling data on as many holed Massachusetts coins as I can locate.

Did you ever look at your Connecticut coppers for hummerdingers? Eric

=====

reply

Dear Eric Newman.

**Connecticut humdingers**

1786 5.1-H.1  
1787 10-E  
1787 15-F (dbl plugged!)  
1787 28-n  
1787 32.4-X.5 (with an attempted third hole)  
1787 33.14-Z.14  
1787 33.31-gg.2  
1787 39.2-ee (holed at 12 & 2 O'clock)

**Machin Mill humdingers**

1776 6-76A  
1778 11-78A ( 7 holes toward the rim with a center hole)  
*Rosa Americana humdinger*  
1723 (4 holes)

**Washington humdinger**

Unity States 1783 (2 holes at 12 & 6 o'clock but the sizes of the holes are quite different)

**New Jersey humdingers**

1786 12-I  
1786 15-J (3 holes made to look like a face)r  
1787 33-U (3rd hole plugged at 12 o'clock)  
1787 63-S  
1788 78-dd (second hole attempted but not completed)

**Vermont humdinger**

1786 R 7 (technically one hole with three other attempted holes)

**Massachusetts humdingers**

1787 3-G (provenance includes Treasure Chest and once owned by E. Newman!)

1787 6-N

**I hope you are well. Thanks for working on my holed pine tree shilling with such due diligence.**

**Please email or call me @ home @ 914 835 0220 anytime.** I do have a holed Oak Tree N. 5 but it has, alas, only one hole. Most numismatists (not me) are only interested in the color, surface and rarity of the coin and sneer at the hole. The hole "mutilates and destroys" the integrity and value of the coin! **The list above is only humdingers. I would be honored to show you my holed collection. No one has asked to see the group so far. If you ask, you would be the first.**

**Yes, stay well.**

**Thanks for all the emails.**

**Respectfully**

**Roger6161@aol.com**    **c/o Dr. Michael Xavier Spencer Esq. the third**    c/o a man  
with many titles

***P.S. If you want to keep the holed pine tree just send another coin or coins in trade.***

***Yes, I will trade you blind. Life is grand!***

**Thank you again**

=====

Yes, I have holed obverse coins at 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11 & 12 O'clock.

I have holed I oo (Ink on obverse), pinholes, large, very large, huge, irregular, rectangular, square nail, plugged, dbl plugged, and natural holes.

|



Subj: **contemporary holed pine tree**  
Date: 10/4/2010 11:03:28 A.M. Central Daylight Time  
From: [roger6161@aol.com](mailto:roger6161@aol.com)  
To: [ericnumis@aol.com](mailto:ericnumis@aol.com), [robertmartin22@live.com](mailto:robertmartin22@live.com), [dave@CoinRaritiesOnline.com](mailto:dave@CoinRaritiesOnline.com),  
[john@coinraritiesonline.com](mailto:john@coinraritiesonline.com)

Dear Eric,

I am writing to you about the holed pine tree shilling that professors in St. Louis were studying x ray diffraction.

It is difficult to rush college professors but I do hope they have returned the coin with definitive findings.

The possibility of identifying a silver pine tree counterfeit that circulated during that same circulating period requires knowledge and courage, two qualities very few contemporary numismatists have or share. I am counting on a numismatist I have never met, you sir.

Whatever opinions you have generated I will listen to carefully. Again, if you want to keep the coin, send a coin or coins back in barter. I will accept any trade unconditionally. Numismatics, like life, is intended to be experiential *and* fun. I have felt that this is just "another chance of a lifetime."

If you would ever like to see my humble yet fascinating entire holed colonial collection I would enjoy showing it to you. No one but me has ever seen the entire collection, but then there remains very little interest. Many numismatists have become registry set collectors and consider these coins "mutilated or"damaged" when the holes were utilitarian and accepted.

Yes, "a blind trade" would make numismatic history and for me is just "another chance of a lifetime."

My partner and associates and I will await your reply

I will repay your efforts with any request you ask.

**Thanks you for your due diligence and the courage to take on such a decision.**

Michael Spencer      *message # 212 726 1299*  
w/ Robert M. Martin & David Whuck      & John Agere.

*home # 914 835 0220*

Subj: **Re: SECOND email**  
 Date: 10/28/2010 2:07:04 P.M. Central Daylight Time  
 From: [EricNumis@aol.com](mailto:EricNumis@aol.com)  
 To: [roger6161@aol.com](mailto:roger6161@aol.com)

Dear Friend:

There is a new book on Massachusetts Silver to be published by the American Numismatic Society in December 2010 written by a man named Salmon. I do not know him and I have not had access to the content as yet. It is very important because I am told that it has comment on some of the Contemporary Counterfeits. In the meantime the professors at Washington University have asked for further testing for refinements of its silver content and adulterants. I look forward to their comments. I am sure you realize that you have given me a most difficult problem which pleases me.

You may or may not be aware that I have had a lot of publicity on the publication by the University of Pennsylvania Press of my discovery of the earliest engraving of an Audubon bird. I will send you an off print from the Journal of the Early Republic if that is of interest to you. That only took 5 years to research and find. It was on a bank note and that is why the 50 year old problem was handed to me. There is a major exhibition at Princeton University featuring the matter now.

I was fascinated by your listing of the holed colonial copper items. They seemed to be in every position and in various sizes and numbers. The holes in Spanish silver and Mass silver are usually near the edge as you know to sew on to a woman's dress or an Indian's outfit. Yours could range from a mast adjustment to anything.

My best to you.

Eric

In a message dated 10/28/2010 12:19:03 A.M. Central Daylight Time, roger6161@aol.com writes:

Dear Eric,

*How is the Holed Pine Tree Shilling?* 😊

I hope you can write a narrative explaining whether the coin is a new variety, a contemporary counterfeit or some other delineation and then return the coin at your earliest convenience.

**Or keep the coin and send back whatever you want in trade!**

I will do whatever you wish.

Your wish is what I will do! Why not? **Trading you blind, sir, would fit my personal approach to dealing with fair and honest people.**

The coin may fit in your museum, next to another unique holed Pine Tree! Please understand I am honored and humbled that you have had the coin about two years and ten months, evaluating its possibilities.

**I hope you are well.** 😊

**Respectfully**

Michael Xavier Spencer

call me at home anytime @ 914 835 0220 or leave message 212 726 1299

Subj: **Re: holed pine tree**  
 Date: 1/12/2011 1:03:01 P.M. Central Standard Time  
 From: [EricNumis@aol.com](mailto:EricNumis@aol.com)  
 To: [roger6161@aol.com](mailto:roger6161@aol.com)

Dear Michael:

I have several pieces of Mass silver here now for authenticity determination. Some are at Washington University for trace analysis and other study.

In the new book on early American counterfeiting by Dr, Philip Mossman to be published by the American Numismatic Society very soon (the first section having just been published in CNL) there is no finding of even a mention of any silver contemporary counterfeit comment, or accusation or court mention. There is a pot metal reference which I published long ago. I have read the Mossman draft submitted to me. I believe I previously told you that was what I already believed.

There is also a book on Mass silver by Chris Salmon which is also supposed to be sent out now by the American Numismatic Society but I have not yet seen any preliminary text.

Right now I favor your coin as being a new variety rather than a later than circulation copy or forgery, but this is not yet an opinion. The hole is a favorable factor as the coin having become a clothing ornament and no counterfeiter would be likely to put a hole in his product if it were to be passed to the public..

I have a holed NE XII Mass silver piece sent here for study and have had to find as many as I can of any type of an example of holed Mass silver which is illustrated in auction catalogs of the past. This will be of help in the study of holed pieces.

I realize you want prompt action but on very difficult matters like yours the answer is not easy for you and your group.  
 Eric

You mention

In a message dated 1/12/2011 9:04:48 A.M. Central Standard Time, roger6161@aol.com writes:

Dear Eric,

I am writing to you regarding my *holed pine tree shilling* that you have in your possession. *The hope remains that the pine tree is a silver pine tree counterfeit made during the circulating period or a new variety.*

I am asking for the coin to be **returned** as it has been in your sole possession for three (3) years. If you could write any explanation about whether the pine tree is a contemporary counterfeit or a new variety I would be very appreciative. I realize the project has been quite difficult. X ray diffraction and/or deciding if there is a new discovery takes time and courage.

You are one of the only numismatists that can do such work and the decision not be questioned.

**Yes, if you want to keep the coin and send me something in trade I would agree blindly.** You are famous for being more than fair. My old friend, Mike Ringo, had spoken about your fairness and knowledge many times. I have a partner (Robert Martin) and two associates (David Wnuck & John Agere) who have let me do all writing to you and decision making about this coin.

**Thank you so very much** for taking all the time and thought with the holed pine tree.

**Anything you want, just ask.**

I remain in your debt.

Respectfully

**Dr. Michael Xavier Spencer** c/o Roger6161@ AOL.com.

home # 914 835 0220

mess # 212 726 1299



Subj: **the holed pine tree**  
 Date: 2/9/2011 1:45:44 P.M. Central Standard Time  
 From: [roger6161@aol.com](mailto:roger6161@aol.com)  
 To: [EricNumis@aol.com](mailto:EricNumis@aol.com), [robertmartin22@live.com](mailto:robertmartin22@live.com), [dave@CoinRaritiesOnline.com](mailto:dave@CoinRaritiesOnline.com),  
[john@coinraritiesonline.com](mailto:john@coinraritiesonline.com)

Dear Eric,

First of all I hope you are doing well.

Second, I would greatly appreciate it if you could temporarily **send the holed pine tree back to me** so I could show the coin to a N.Y. numismatist. He would like to have the coin in hand.

***please mail to***

**Dr. Michael Xavier Spencer**  
**P.O. Box 867**  
**Harrison N.Y. 10528.**

*I will resend the coin back to you quickly whenever you say.* I do have other coins I would be thrilled to send you including a silver coin resembling an Oak 1 that I find fascinating

My partner and two associates remain fascinated by our three (3) year process with this coin.

**Thanks so much for all your help.**

**I remain in your debt. If you want something, just ask**

**home 914 835 0220**

**message 212 726 1299 (24/7)**

**Dr. Michael Xavier Spencer Esq** aka Cazzie Russell aka **A man of many titles.**

-----Original Message-----

From: [EricNumis@aol.com](mailto:EricNumis@aol.com)

To: [roger6161@aol.com](mailto:roger6161@aol.com)

Sent: Wed, Jan 12, 2011 2:03 pm

Subject: Re: holed pine tree

Dear Michael:

I have several pieces of Mass silver here now for authenticity determination. Some are at Washington University for trace analysis and other study.

In the new book on early American counterfeiting by Dr, Philip Mossman to be published by the American Numismatic Society very soon (the first section having just been published in CNL) there is no finding of even a mention of any silver contemporary counterfeit comment, or accusation or court mention. There is a pot metal reference which I published long ago. I have read the Mossman draft submitted to me. I believe I previously told you that was what I already believed.

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I realize you want prompt action but on very difficult matters like yours the answer is not easy for you and your group.

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**Thank you so very much** for taking all the time and thought with the holed pine tree. **Anything you want, just ask.**

I remain in your debt.

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c/o Roger6161@ AOL.com.

home # 914 835 0220

mess # 212 726 1299

Subj: **Re: the holed pine tree**  
 Date: 2/14/2011 10:49:39 A.M. Central Standard Time  
 From: [EricNumis@aol.com](mailto:EricNumis@aol.com)  
 To: [roger6161@aol.com](mailto:roger6161@aol.com)

Dear Michael:

In accordance with your instructions of 2/ 9/ 11 your holed small planchet Pine Tree shilling has just been returned from the Chemistry Department of Washington University in St. Louis and it will be packaged and returned to you promptly. Happy Valentine's Day. Eric

In a message dated 2/9/2011 1:45:44 P.M. Central Standard Time, [roger6161@aol.com](mailto:roger6161@aol.com) writes:

Dear Eric,

First of all I hope you are doing well.

Second, I would greatly appreciate it if you could temporarily **send the holed pine tree back to me** so I could show the coin to a N.Y. numismatist. He would like to have the coin in hand. **please mail to**

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**Dr. Michael Xavier Spencer** c/o Roger6161@ AOL.com.

home # 914 835 0220

mess # 212 726 1299

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

*6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105*

February 18, 2011

Dr. Michael Xavier Spencer  
P.O. Box 867  
Harrison, NY 10528

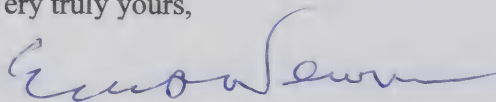
Dear Dr. Spencer:

There is enclosed herewith the holed small size Pine Tree shilling which you sent us for study.

You requested its return, and we have included the holder which contained the coin, Hirschak Company lot and buyer numbers, and the envelope in which Coin Rarities housed the coin.

At your convenience please acknowledge receipt of this letter and its contents.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Eric P. Newman", written in a cursive style.

Eric P. Newman, Pres.



Subj: **receipt of holed pine tree**  
Date: 2/26/2011 5:13:07 P.M. Central Standard Time  
From: [roger6161@aol.com](mailto:roger6161@aol.com)  
To: [ericnumis@aol.com](mailto:ericnumis@aol.com), [robertmartin22@live.com](mailto:robertmartin22@live.com), [dave@CoinRaritiesOnline.com](mailto:dave@CoinRaritiesOnline.com),  
[john@coinraritiesonline.com](mailto:john@coinraritiesonline.com)

Dear Mr. Eric Newman,

**I have receipt of the holed pine tree you sent me.** I do have an irregularly rectangular holed N 14 (private buyer) and a huge holed Ag Baltimore sixpence C 4 Sale 11/13/04 in my possession. If you want to peruse either I would ship them to you at once.

If you have *any* copy or summary of the metal diffusion findings as to the composition of the holed pine tree I would be fascinated to read it. (Technical nomenclature makes me happy!). Whether the holed pine tree is a new variety, a contemporary counterfeit (or some other possibility) goes toward the center of the question. A new variety designation would be exciting news.

I certainly would like to pay you for any incurred expenses in our three year ordeal. I apologize for not offering before. It was an oversight on my part.

Thanks again Eric.

Sincerely

Dr. Michael Xavier Spencer Esq. the third.....aka.....

Roger6161@ AOL.com ...aka "The man with many titles."

212 726 1299 (message machine)

914 835 0220 (home).

Whatever you want, just ask. Yes, you can have the coin back in trade if you wish!

Subj: **Re: numismatic happening this Saturday**  
Date: 9/10/2011 2:04:05 P.M. Central Daylight Time  
From:  
To:

Thanks for the email. Eric. I am honored. M. Spencer still at the event

Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

**From:** EricNumis@aol.com  
**Date:** Sat, 10 Sep 2011 14:48:14 -0400 (EDT)  
**To:** <roger6161@aol.com>  
**Subject:** Re: numismatic happening this Saturday

Dear Mike:

It is thoughtful of you to speak on my 1957 article at the Siboni party. I hope it was a success. Eric

In a message dated 9/7/2011 6:16:37 P.M. Central Daylight Time, roger6161@aol.com writes:

Dear Eric,

I am going to Roger Siboni's house (ANS president) this **Saturday September 10, 2011**

25-30 colonial people will be gathered for the event..

Each guest is asked to give a "presentation" on a colonial "item or concept or..."

After reading your article in the Centennial Publication of the ANS I have decided to

speak about the article you wrote " A recently discovered coin solves a Vermont numismatic enigma."

Happily I will add nothing, just repeat what you wrote in 1958.

It may be that you and I are the only living souls that have two 976-B specimens.

(Do you think this is factual?).

Call me anytime Saturday on my cell and I can put you on speaker phone. or just call me anytime for anything.

Thanks for all your correspondence.

My partner has them sequenced in a folder!

**Hope you are well** ☺ .

*Thanks for everything*

**cell # 914 473 0406**

Dr Mike Xavier Spencer Esquire the third (*man of many titles*)

roger6161@aol.com

message machine 212 726 1299

Subj: **thank you Eric**  
Date: 9/16/2011 10:54:08 P.M. Central Daylight Time  
From:  
To:

Dear Eric,

I want to thank you for the email you sent last Saturday regarding my presentation of the Machin's Mill 9-76B small date write-up that you first published in the Centennial Edition of the ANS. Yes, it may be that we are the only two known collectors with two examples of this variety. (Of course I may be wrong as the population of this variety has increased quite a bit over the last fifty three years).

This was my first appearance at this gathering as I have tried to remain a shadowy figure but I could not resist trying to explain the importance of the Machin's Mill 9-76B having New York, Vermont & Connecticut connections. How you noticed the Miller 1786 I-A has identical die number punches with the Machin's Mill 9-76B still makes me smile.

The square nail holed Massachusetts silver pine tree that you had in your possession for awhile was passed to Chris Salmon at the same ANS "happening." He is the writer of the just published Massachusetts silver book. His initial reaction to the coin was quite positive and he is doing his "own tests" on the coin. If he decides to do a write-up on the coin, he may ask for your collaboration. I personally would be flattered if you would be so inclined.

Anything you want from me, just ask. **Your wish remains my command.**

**Thanks again for all your emails and interest.**

Dr Mike Xavier Spencer Esquire the third (*man of many titles*)

24 hour message 212 726 1299

home # 914 473 0406

c/o **roger6161@AOL.com**





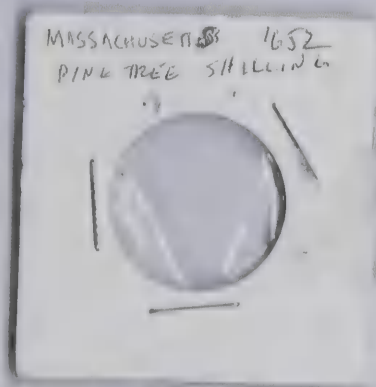




This Mass 12¢  
belongs to  
Dave Wnuck  
III

Unknown  
1652 small  
Pine Tree 12¢  
holed  
border trimmed

Spoken to Saspa  
Reloaned  
Wed 6/23/10  
Returned 2/10/11



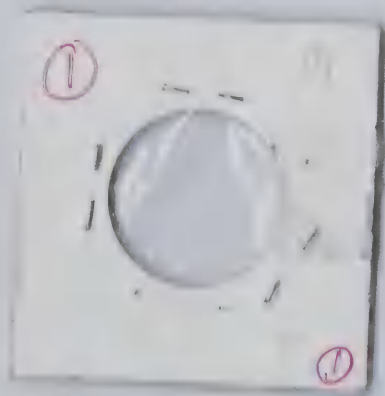
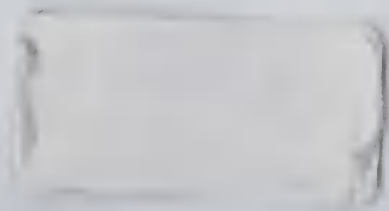
COIN RARITIES LLC  
WALTINGFORD, CT  
(800) COINS-99

1652 Pine Tree  
Shilling,  
small Blanchet

Possible contemporary  
counterfeit

MUSEUM QUALITY COINAGE SM

LOT # 1 | 30 BUYER #  
THOMAS HIRCHAK  
C.O.M.P.A.N.Y.  
1-800-634-7653 thcauction.com



Each S made <sup>by</sup> ~~of~~ two ~~primitives~~ strokes - 7 seen curved  
 Long ~~of~~ Left leg of each A points inward  
 Left root of tree touches dentil  
 Base of I touches dentil  
 Dentil under right leg of I is  
 very wide  
 Inner circle dentils ~~35~~ 35







Inner openings of fast  
~~fast~~ E filled in.

Fast D not complete.

Left upright of  
Fast N touches inner ~~tooth~~ <sup>dental</sup>.

~~Fast N touches inner tooth~~  
Top of I of date touches ~~inner dental~~ <sup>inner dental</sup>.

Scarf of X face inward only.

~~One cross bar of X is not~~

Two arms of one cross bar of X  
~~do not~~ are not <sup>properly</sup> aligned.

Inner circle dental opposite center  
of second A ~~is double cut~~ <sup>is double cut</sup> ~~large~~  
~~and small double cut~~.

36 ~~36~~ dentils in inner circle,  
the dental opposite the center of

the second A is double cut.

X and second I of XII touch  
a dental.





















Hard Pine Tree 12d

Wrench sample

Wt. 2.80

Holder in water 1.97

W brn water

$$\begin{array}{r} 4.5 \\ 1.97 \\ \hline 2.55 \text{ net wt in water} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 2.80 \\ 2.55 \\ \hline .25 \end{array}$$

$$.25 \overline{) 2.80} = 11.2 \text{ spec grav}$$

Pesados ~~the~~ nailed on ones  
Hoby Duck

1928 geographica on Coins

I should mention the  
and with me in  
your

# Holes in Mass Silver

The Pine Tree Cornage of Massachusetts

p 161  
(p 19)

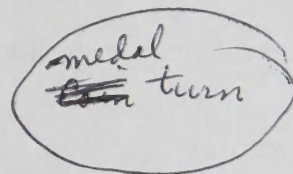
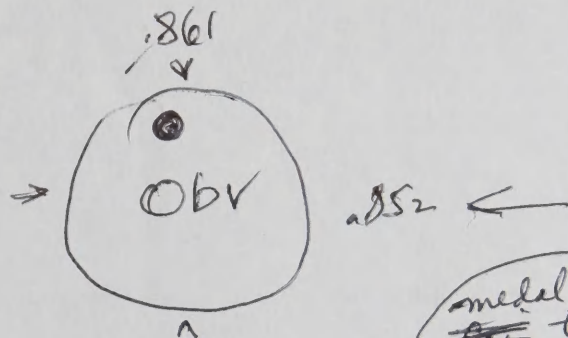
under WITCH PIECES

"The thinness of Pine Tree coins made bending an easy operation, and some with holes for suspension may have seen service in the same manner as those which were bent."

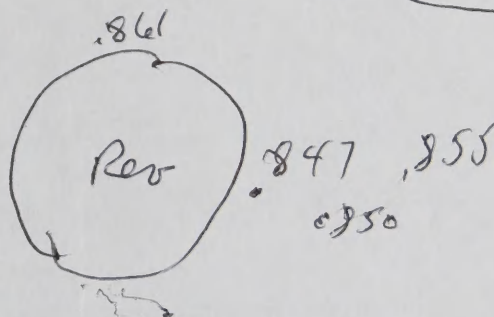


Mass 1652  
12 d small planchet, rolled.

Medal  
turn



Thickness  
.35 or .36



Punched hole  
from reverse  
hammered ~~on~~ <sup>on</sup> obs. to  
smooth after punch

Position of lettering on obs normal, but position on  
reverse is like 117, 118

Edge seems filed

~~less than~~  
Outside ring dots  
are  $\frac{1}{2}$  missing on  
obs and  $\frac{7}{8}$  missing  
on reverse

Double dot and tiny dot  
under ring beneath  
~~the~~ N of IN

~~much too large~~  
I in IN, may be same punch as I I in XII

~~I in 1652 has thick flat base~~  
~~I in 1652 has flat base~~

I in 1652 much smaller than I in XII

~~I in 1652 has serif top & bottom~~

No center mark on either side

N in AN has no top right serif. but all  
others do or can't tell if they do.

Trunk thicker than other ~~varieties~~  
<sup>on each side</sup>  
& Branches all curve uniformly upward. No  
straight ~~flat~~ <sup>lines</sup>, no limbs,

Noe 31

(Publication  
ANS 1952)

Hole almost same size as <sup>Wmck</sup> 2008 submission

Long lower element of E on both

Very wide trunk on both

More branches and thinner branches on <sup>Wmck</sup> 2008

Heavily clipped ~~almost same size~~ ~~diameter hole~~

Some remaining diameter as 2008 submission

Very thin 5 and 2.

36.4 grains

Mass Hist Soc. Unzue  
formerly in Crosby collection